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# Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

# Programme budget for the biennium 2006 and 2007

## Report of the Fifth Committee

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Diego Simancas (Mexico)

## I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the items entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and "Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007" and to allocate them to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the items at its 18th and 36th meetings, on 6 November and 21 December 2006. The statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the items are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/61/SR.18 and 36).

3. For its consideration of the items, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the role of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa (A/61/471) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/544).

## II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.18

4. At its 36th meeting, on 21 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Enhancing the role of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa" (A/C.5/61/L.18), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Angola.

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5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.18 without a vote (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Nigeria (on behalf of Member States of the United Nations that are also members of the African Group) and Brazil.

# III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Enhancing the role of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 60/235 of 23 December 2005,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the role of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

2. *Recalls* its resolution 59/275 of 23 December 2004, in which it decided that the development of Africa should be among the priorities of the Organization for the period 2006-2007;

3. *Recalls also* its resolutions 57/2 of 16 September 2002 and 57/7 of 4 November 2002, and stresses the important role played by the Economic Commission for Africa in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system at the regional level in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

4. *Recalls further* its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 and its commitment to address the special needs of Africa;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Economic Commission for Africa to conduct a comprehensive review aimed at repositioning it to better respond to the challenges facing Africa and to implement the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

6. *Recalls* its request to the Secretary-General in paragraph 12 of its resolution 60/235 of 23 December 2005, to submit a comprehensive plan of action to strengthen the subregional offices, and notes with appreciation the steps taken to define the role and mission of the subregional offices so as to address the recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services;[3]

7. *Recalls also* paragraphs 9 and 12 of its resolution 60/235 and its request to the Secretary-General, in the context of the plan of action, to ensure that adequate resources are provided to the Economic Commission for Africa and its subregional offices to continue their support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic communities for Africa, as well as to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

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[1] A/61/471.
[2] A/61/544.
[3] A/60/120, sect. IX.

8. *Recalls further* its concern expressed in paragraph 8 of its resolution 60/235, and notes that the repositioning exercise and implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services will be addressed through a redeployment of post and non-post resource requirements in the biennium 2006-2007 and that the Secretary-General will address remaining proposals for resources and reorganization in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of his report on the comprehensive information and communication technology strategy of the Organization, to be submitted to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-first session, to include detailed information on the implementation of paragraph 6 of its resolution 60/235.